



Friends of the Morrill Memorial Library Newsletter

Friendly Notes

Winter 2009

Vol. 4 Issue 2

Here's To A Wonderful New Year!

Wow, 2008 has already drawn to a close, and it's been yet another great year for the Friends!

I was just reading over some recent newsletters and saw that last year at this time I was making the same point I want to reiterate now: though the years seem to fly by ever more quickly, each time I look back, I'm always so gratified to see what we've accomplished. And to prove my point I've listed some of this year's highlights below.

Looking back to September, we sponsored a booth on Norwood Day. This has always been a great way to raise awareness about the Friends and the library while getting to meet with the community. And the truth is, it's also a lot of fun!

Then, in November, we held our perennial favorite, the semi-annual Friends Book Sale. Did you take advantage of your Friends membership to come a day early? This year we took in \$1860! And, since all of the books and all of the time spent running this program are donated, that is all money available to support programs to benefit the library. When pooled with our yearly dues and other contributions, we're able to do some truly wonderful things.

In 2008 we donated \$1000 to the Morrill Memorial Gift Fund to buy such things as DVDs, books on CD and music CDs for the Library. We also sponsor or co-sponsor library programs for children and adults. Some of the events the Friends have sponsored include author's nights and, for the first time this year, an All Friends Read.

In fact, the All Friends Read (of Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*) in September

was very well received and we're hoping to make this event something we do each year. For those who didn't participate in 2008, we basically picked a book for everyone participating to read and then sponsored book discussions and a speaker to help us really delve into its meaning. Sharing a great book with your fellow Friends and other members of the community makes for some great interactions and, frankly, a lot of fun. In a world where topics for thoughtful discussion have become so fractured, there's something special about a community coming together and agreeing to share in such an event. So if you have ideas for a title for this year, or just have questions about this initiative, please don't hesitate to drop us a line! Drop your suggestions at the circulation desk or email friendsread@norwoodlibrary.org.

Our semi-annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday January 28 at 7pm** in the Simoni Room. This year our special guest is Jeff Belanger, author of the intriguing and popular *Weird Massachusetts*. See inside for more details. Please join us for this event.

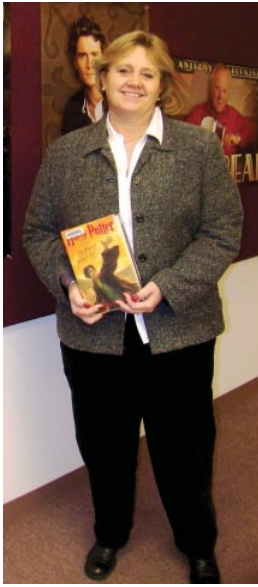
I'm afraid that the above really doesn't capture much of the many things the Friends have done and in which members can rightly take pride. Still I hope it serves to help remind us of the good that comes from our group and to encourage us to keep this 'virtuous circle' going into the new year.

Here's to a wonderful new year for you and yours!

Dan Corzilius
President

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Welcome Charlotte Canelli!

The Friends of the Library wish to extend a warm welcome to Charlotte Canelli, who was hired as Library Director in September 2008. Before joining the Morill Memorial Library, Ms. Canelli was the Library Director of the Dover Town Library. Prior to that she was the Director of the Bellingham Public Library from 2005-2008. Ms. Canelli graduated with a Masters in Library Science from Simmons College. A life-long lover of libraries, Ms. Canelli writes a blog at <http://fromthelibrarydirector.blogspot.com>.

Fahrenheit 451 - All Friends Read 2008

On September 25, 2008, close to 40 attendees had the pleasure of being part of the first Friends of the Library "All Friends Read." Dr. Samuel Coale, Professor of English at Wheaton College, engaged participants in a university-level lecture and discussion of *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury's classic science fiction work.

Dr. Coale led a two-hour experience that allowed his audience to act as students through the examination of this book. He opened his remarks with an introductory reading of the first paragraph of the text. He then encouraged the group to delve into the meaning of the work as presented through Bradbury's choice of words, sentence structure, imagery and personal sensibilities as a writer. Challenging his audience, he presented the paradoxes in Bradbury's imagery and language, the hatefulness of book burning against the pleasures of burning, the sight of a house being eaten by fire, while describing the swarm of fireflies wafting in the air.

Through inviting comments from the audience, Dr. Coale trailblazed a thoughtful and insightful exploration of the text. He

illustrated how Bradbury's precise and descriptive choice of words, coupled with emotion-evoking sentence structure, act as tools to articulate the very essence of literature and the limitless ideas that are expressed through books. Bradbury also makes many literary references in his prose, invoking past works to add life and meaning to the very words he is writing.



As the evening came to a close, Dr. Coale suggested that in this work, Bradbury is asking his readers to perform the difficult task of not immediately taking sides on an issue, and instead to evaluate contradictory sides of a idea. By presenting book burning as both evil and pleasurable, Bradbury suggests that we should not consider any type of ideology at face value. Instead, Dr. Coale intimated, Bradbury asks his readers to look at political ideologies, even democracy or capitalism, with a critical mind, and not as a construct with a single definition.

Debbie Lipton
Recording Secretary



Jeff Belanger leads a very haunted life. He's been fascinated with the supernatural since age ten when he investigated his first haunted house during a sleepover. Since then, the paranormal investigator has been a writer and journalist for various newspapers and magazines, and in 1999 he launched Ghostvillage.com as a repository for his writings and research on the subject of the supernatural. He brings personality and humor to this subject which makes him one of the most sought-after experts in the field. He's written for many paranormal Web sites and print publications and is the author of several books.

Jeff Belanger graduated from Hofstra University with a B.A. in English. He's currently a full-time writer living in Massachusetts with his wife, Megan, daughter, Sophie, and parakeet, Mambo.

On Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 7pm, Jeff will be the guest speaker at the Friends Semi-Annual Meeting. He will be speaking about Weird Massachusetts. The event is free and open to the public. Please call the Library at 781-769-0200 to register if you would like to attend.

Friends of the Morrill Memorial Library Executive Board

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Free WiFi@ the Library

Bring your laptop to the library, find a cozy chair, a clean table or a study carrel and log onto our free WiFi network. No laptop? No problem! Simply sign up to use one of the many Internet computers found throughout the Library. Printing is available for 15 cents per page.

Morrill Musings

Starting in January 2009, look for copies of the Morrill Musings newsletter and calendar at the Library. Morrill Musings is a monthly publication by the library staff listing adult and childrens events, new books of interest, and the latest news.

Friends of the Morrill Memorial Library
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Upcoming Events at the Norwood Library

Thursday January 22, 7:00pm

The Colonel George T. Lee Story. See the film about Norwood's own World War II hero, who set the record for flying 258 missions in the European theater.

Saturday January 24, 10am

Lucy the R.E.A.D. Dog will revisit the Library for a program that encourages children to read. Parents, please register with the Children's Department by calling the Library.

Wednesday January 28, 7:00pm

Friends Winter Meeting. All Friends are invited to attend this event. Our special guest will be Jeff Belanger, author of *Weird Massachusetts*.

Sunday February 8, 3pm

Enjoy *Love Songs for a Sunday Afternoon* with *Too Human*. Ellen Schwartz and Roger Bruno, driven by Ellen's sandpapery voice and Roger's tasteful percussion, share their well-crafted songs and distinctive sound.

Sunday March 29, 3pm

Tune into Spring with *Two Old Friends*. Mac McHale and Emery Hutchins with a program of favorite Irish sea songs, very old traditional country music, a good amount of hot-picking instrumentals, and some great sing-alongs.

Sunday May 17, 2009, 3pm

Neponset Valley Chamber Players. Norwood cellist Shay Rudolph returns in a classical trio of Flute, Violin & Cello, performing works by Haydn and other favorite composers.

Please register for all programs by calling the library, 781-769-0200.